

e-Bugle

Garrett Bugle Internet Edition

Volume 60

March 2013

No. 3



Calendar

Fri., Feb. 22	Pick up <i>Bugle</i> at Penn Place; Film Society, <i>Last Train Home</i> , Town Hall: dinner 7 pm, film 8 pm	Tues., Mar. 12	Lunch Bunch, Town Hall, 12:30 pm; <i>Bugle</i> deadline, 4 pm
Sat., Feb. 23	Farmer's Market, Penn Place	Thurs., Mar. 14	Yoga for GIVES, Town Hall, 7:30
Thurs., Feb. 28	Deadline for applications for summer jobs at Swimming Pool	Thurs., Mar. 21	Jam Session, Town Hall, 8 pm
Sat., Mar. 2	GIVES collection, Penn Place, 9 am–noon	Fri., Mar. 22	Film Society, <i>Bringing Up Baby</i> , Town Hall: dinner 7 pm, film 8 pm (see p 5); Pick up <i>Bugle</i> , Penn Place lobby
Mon., Mar. 4	Weekly yard waste collection begins	Sat., Mar. 23	Farmer's Market
Thurs., Mar. 7	Jam Session, Town Hall, 8 pm	Wed., Mar. 27	Citizens Assoc. Mtg., Town Hall, 8 pm: Nominations for Town Council seats
Sun., Mar. 10	Daylight Savings Time—set clocks ahead; Reception, Martha Seigel art show, Penn Place, 3 to 5 (see p 2); Yoga for GIVES, Town Hall, 7:30 pm (see p 4)	Thurs., Mar. 28	Yoga for GIVES, Town Hall, 7:30
Mon., Mar. 11	Town Council Mtg., Town Hall, 7:30 pm	Sat., Mar. 30	Large item pickup; Voter registration for May town elections, Town Office, 8 am–noon
		Sun., Mar. 31	Yoga for GIVES, Town Hall, 7:30

Serenity and Bamboo

Perhaps providing the *yang* to January's *yin*, the Town Council's February meeting was short, serene, and sparsely attended. First on the agenda (after the approval of said agenda and the approval of the minutes from the January *yin*) was the "Presentation by Residents." There being none, the council moved on to the first action item: the Porcupine Woods (PW) Bamboo Containment Plan.

Representatives from the PW subcommittee spoke, providing some detail on their Bamboo Containment Plan. (You will recall that in January, the Council approved the revised recommendation of subcommittee to *contain*, not eradicate, the bamboo in PW.) The subcommittee met with all interested parties, providing personal notice to those most affected, and the proposed perimeter of the containment area was ultimately staked out.

The subcommittee's work being done, it was then up to the Council to vote whether to accept their plan. The councilmembers were all very appreciative of the subcommittee's work but weren't quite ready to adopt the containment

area as staked out. So, in an effort to still capture the aesthetics of the containment area—and to honor the spirit of the Great Compromise that the plan represents—the Council voted unanimously to approve the subcommittee's plan, with the modification that the boundary stakes are each moved about 10 feet closer to the fence line, thus reducing the bamboo footprint by whatever area that works out to be. The stakes will be re-staked shortly, so any and all can see the tweak.

In Excel news, the Council arranged to have a 2014 budget work session on Saturday, March 9, starting at 8:30 am in the Town Office. Townsfolk who enjoy watching their elected representatives crunch numbers are welcome to attend. It is not, however, a participatory sport; residents' input will be solicited at a different time.

Mayor Benjamin then reported on some of the difficulties of predicting the Affordable Care Act's effect on the town employees' health plan. Neither our insurance carrier, nor our insurance broker, nor (it seems) anyone else appears to be able to provide us with relevant details. Ted Pratt

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will endeavor to get some information from the Maryland Municipal League (MML) and its Local Government Insurance Trust (LGIT).

And speaking of Ted, he still cannot be persuaded to abandon his plans to leave us this June, so Councilmember Tara Flynn reported on the status of the recruitment for a new Town Manager. Novak Consulting, which is handling the initial phases of the recruitment effort, will be accepting applications through February 28. (See the town Web site for more information.) To date, the consultants have received about 35 applications.

And so, after a brief discussion about creating a Town Employee Handbook, and an even briefer presentation of the monthly financial report, the meeting adjourned at 8:49 pm.

Randy Auerbach



Art at Penn Place

The watercolor paintings of long-time Garrett Park resident Martha Seigel will be on display from March 4 through April 6. Having moved here in 1965, Martha says she now qualifies as one of the "old timers." Her 100-year-old house doubles as her schoolhouse, where she teaches watercolor painting to adults three mornings a week. Many Garrett Parkers, as well as students from neighboring communities, have enjoyed learning the rudiments of painting through Martha's informal, intuitive teaching style.

For most of her career Martha has painted impressionistic landscapes of her garden and colorful interiors of her old house. Her recent work, however, is totally abstract, or to be more specific, "nonrepresentational." She used to think abstract art looked easy. Now she says, "I had no idea what an exciting, challenging ride this would be!"

A reception for the artist will be held on Sunday, March 10, 3 to 5 pm.

Wait! There's more! Congruent with the Penn Place show, Martha will have a companion exhibit in her home. This will be a mixture of old work and new, realistic and abstract. Martha invites neighbors to come over, bring a friend, share a cup of tea, or a glass of wine, and view additional art. At no extra charge, she'll even show you her unique collection of "found" art! Please call first.

Citizens Association News

Report from Town Dinner. The Town Dinner on January 26 was a festival of LOVE, and over 70 people attended. We heard from the Lincolns about the phone call in the 1970's to Japan that led to marriage (and a \$40 bill for a 10 minute call!). Another story, from the Hillegoss family, sounded like the inspiration for the movie *Meet the Parents* (her dad was an agent who behaved to her new beau rather like Robert DeNiro's character). Sue Petito commented about the love for Garrett Park, and also those who serve the town on the Council. There were also a few stories of love for, and against, the bamboo in town. Hope you can join us next year.

We also voted in the new Citizens Association Board members, and all the power resides in two houses. Michael Lutkenhouse is president, Crystal Lutkenhouse is treasurer, Sean Conlan is vice-president, and Lori Conlan is secretary.

Future meetings. There is to be no meeting in February. At its March 27 meeting, the Citizens Association will accept nominations for the upcoming town elections on May 6. Three Town Council seats are up for election this year; please consider running for one of these important positions. If interested, please have someone submit your nomination at this meeting.

Annual dues. The Citizens Association 2013 annual dues are being collected. The annual dues are \$10 for individuals and \$20 per family. Thank you to all of those who have already paid. For those who have not, please submit dues by mailing them to the Citizens Association at Box 456.

Garrett Park listserv. To join this electronic forum, which allows neighbors to communicate information about town concerns, safety issues, upcoming events, and recommended services, e-mail Todd Harris or sign in at groups.yahoo.com/group/GarrettParkneighbors/join.

Questions or comments for the Citizens Association? Or perhaps you have a suggestion or idea for a meeting topic that you feel would be of interest to the town? If so, please send a note to P.O. Box 456 or contact Michael Lutkenhouse.

The *Garrett Bugle* is a publication of the Citizens Association of Garrett Park, published 10 times a year. Publication of the *Bugle* is supported by member dues. All residents of Garrett Park are members of the Citizens Association. Yearly dues (\$20 per family or \$10 per individual per address) can be sent to Citizens Association, Box 456, Garrett Park, MD 20896.

Citizens Association Officers:

President: Michael Lutkenhouse
Vice-President: Sean Conlan
Treasurer: Crystal Lutkenhouse
Secretary: Lori Conlan

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First-class subscriptions cost \$15 (bulk mail subscriptions are no longer available). Letters to the editor can be submitted by mail or hand to *Bugle* staff or by e-mail through the town Web site: www.garrettpark-md.gov/submit-BugleArticle.php. The editor reserves the right to edit submissions for length and clarity. Unsigned letters will not be printed.

Town Administrator Notes

Town budget. The Council will be working on the FY 2014 budget (July 2013 through June 2014), which will be introduced at the regular Council Meeting on March 11. If any residents have comments or suggestions regarding next fiscal year's budget, they should contact the Mayor, a Councilmember, or the Town Office.

Yard waste collection. Weekly yard waste collection begins on Monday, March 4. Please remember to bundle sticks in lengths of no more than 4 feet, and place clippings, leaves, etc., in paper leaf bags. No plastic bags, please.

Large item pickup. The next large item pickup is scheduled for Saturday, March 30.

State tax form reminder. Please remember to write "Garrett Park" in the box labeled "City, town or taxing area" when filling out your state income tax forms. This ensures that our community receives its fair share of the income tax revenues that the state distributes to the 23 counties and 157 incorporated cities and towns throughout Maryland. This revenue supports many of the services the town provides to residents. Also, the Town Office can provide copies of most IRS forms, so stop by if you need any.

Town elections 2013. Election Day in Garrett Park will be Monday, May 6. Polls are open from 7 am to 7:30 pm in the public lobby of the Post Office at Penn Place. The terms of office for Councilmembers Jack Mandel, Chris Petito, and Phil Schulp are up this year. The last day to register to vote in this election is Saturday, April 6. Candidate nominations will take place during the Citizens Association meeting on Wednesday, March 27, with the Candidates Forum currently set for Wednesday, April 24. Additional nominations may be made by written petition signed

by 10 registered voters and filed with the Town Office by 4 pm on Monday, April 15.

Absentee ballots. Note: All absentee ballots must be applied for in writing. Absentee Ballot Applications will be available from the Town Office or the town Web site (www.garrettpark-md.gov) as of Wednesday, April 17; absentee ballots can be mailed, e-mailed, or faxed to you, or you can pick yours up at the Town Office. After April 29, a voter or the voter's agent must obtain an Absentee Ballot Application in person from the Town Office or the Judges of Election. All ballots must be received by the Judges of Election by the close of the polls at 7:30 pm. Results will be announced at a reception in the Town Hall, hopefully by 10 pm. The reception will start at 9:30 pm.

Voter registration. To be eligible to vote in a town election, you need to be registered with Montgomery County at your Garrett Park address, or on the list of qualified noncitizen Garrett Park residents. If you have not voted in a county/state/national election in the last five years, the Montgomery County Board of Elections will have struck your name from the active voters file. You will need to renew your registration with the Board. The Board of Elections' 24 hour Voter Information Line is 240-777-8683. Also, you may obtain forms needed to register at the Town Office during normal office hours. Special registration hours will also be held on Saturday, March 30, and Saturday, April 6, from 8 am until 12 noon at the Town Office. Please call the Town Office with any questions regarding registration, qualification of voters, nominations, etc.

For further information, or if you have questions, please stop by or call the Town Office at 301-933-7488.

GPES

You haven't heard anything until you've heard over 100 third grade students playing their recorders. A concert was given to a standing room only crowd of mostly parents three weeks ago in a packed Multipurpose Room. As Principal Chang-Baxter said, this crowding was a sign of things to come when this class graduates in two years.

May 1 and 2 are the dates for Kindergarten Orientation this year. If you have a child, or know of children in our district, who will be 5 by September 1, 2013, they need to be registered for school for next year. Call the office (301-929-2170) to start the registration process. May 10 is slated for the annual Career Day speakers' presentations (to take place at 2 pm). If you have an interesting job that students might be excited to learn about, give the school counselor, Shana Schnaue, a call.

And finally, if you haven't been to the school to volunteer recently, you need to bring your driver's license along so that you can sign in.

There is a machine that will read your name off your card, and print out a label for you to wear. As you leave, you turn the label in. Just make sure you sign up in the volunteer hour book on the file cabinet to get credit for the time your worked.

Mary Moyer

Services for Seniors

Activities of Daily Living

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3

Town Hall as Warming/Cooling Center?

For several years the Seniors Committee has discussed the benefits of making the Town Hall a warming/cooling center during winter or summer storm power outages for anyone who might not have other immediate options. This would be a centralized location for townsfolk to warm up or cool off, to store temperature-sensitive medications, to charge electronic devices such as cell phones and laptops, and to help one another pursue alternatives for shelter. For

example, the Town Hall might be open from 8 am to 6 pm. We would need volunteers to help staff the hall and some to help individuals get there either by car or accompanying walkers.

We want to hear your thoughts, ideas, and opinions. Please complete the few questions below, and return this sheet to the decorated shoebox on the table in the post office as soon as possible, but no later than Friday, March 10. We look forward to hearing from you!

Are you in favor of the town purchasing a generator for the Town Hall so that townsfolk could use it as a warming or cooling center during power outages?

Yes ☐ No ☐ Undecided ☐

Comments:

Would this availability be helpful for your family?

Yes ☐ No ☐

Would you use the Town Hall for charging your electronic devices?

Yes ☐ No ☐

Questions or comments:

Thank you from your neighbors on the Seniors Committee!

—Anne Atlee, Florence Gootenberg, Gideon Kantor, Rita Pittillo, Bonnie Tyler

■ Name (optional):

Yoga Days for GIVES

Now in its 40th year, GIVES invites you to help celebrate by participating in our newest fundraiser. Four dates in March have now been officially designated as “Yoga Days for GIVES,” and we invite you to join us. Looking to stretch away your stress and at the same time help out a good cause? Trying to keep that promise to get into shape or beat the boredom of your current exercise routine? Then join your GP neighbors, friends, and spouses, and help support those in need.

Classes will be held at the Town Hall on March 10, 14, 28, and 31. That's two Thursday and two Sunday sessions that begin at 7:30 pm. The suggested donation is \$20 per class or \$75 to sign up for all four classes. Each class will be taught by yoga instructor Renee Leone, who has graciously offered to donate her instruction time and

the cost of each class, in order to complete her training requirements. Please wear comfortable clothing, bring a yoga mat, and don't forget your water bottle! Hope to see you all at Yoga Days for GIVES. Remember all donations are contributed to Thrive DC and American Friends Service. (And if you discover that you like yoga, you may want to join the ongoing yoga classes at the Town Hall: Tuesday nights with Liz Chabra or Monday mornings with Kathy Flannery.) If you have questions about GIVES, contact Rana Koll-Mandel.

Save the Dates!

The Garrett Park Women's Club announces that its annual Progressive Dinner will be held on Saturday, May 4. And Kay Hager has scheduled the annual plant swap for Saturday, May 18.

Please make a note of these dates. More details will follow!

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Bugle Notes . . . Sweet and Sour

- ♪ We were saddened to hear of the death of long-time resident Arthur Heyman on February 11. A memorial service was held for him on February 16 at the Town Hall.
- ♪ You might ask Nancy Floreen how she did on her \$5 a day budget for food recently. County officials tried to get by on the menus a food-stamp recipient might afford.
- ♪ From the PO: Please be advised to pay your box rent as soon as you get the reminder, or you may find yourself without a box. There are people waiting for those empty boxes. (Aren't we lucky we have a Post Office to go to to get our mail? If Saturday mail delivery stops in August as threatened, we'll still be open!)
- ♪ The Town Dinner was a yummy success this year. A crowd of residents braved the nonthreatening weather to bring delectable dishes to share (we could use more salads next year). New officers were voted in (see the masthead, p 2), and then stories about "love" were recounted.
- ♪ From the past: "My early childhood in Garrett Park provides me with wonderful memories. I attended first, second and third grade in the one room schoolhouse... I played in the fields out back... and sometimes we would find Indian artifacts (arrow heads), and I remember my older brother found two stones that were used to grind grain. We also found some musket balls. I think there had been a skirmish at one time. One time one of the boys found a human skull just outside the southwest corner of our property." From a letter of Lawrence Ingberg.
- ♪ The spring musicale supporting the Ilah Gieser Music Scholarship is to be held May 19 at the Town Hall. Put it on your calendar! If you would like to join the small group of Garrett Park Singers, call Meme Lincoln. All voice parts are needed, especially male!

GPFS: *Bringing Up Baby*

On March 22, the Garrett Park Film Society presents its annual homage to 1930's American screwball comedies with a showing of *Bringing Up Baby* (1938, rated appropriate for all audiences). Katherine Hepburn is a scatter-brained heiress (with a pet leopard, Baby), who brings chaos, turmoil, and romance into the life of a bookish and naive paleontologist, Cary Grant. Described as "goofy farce" and "the highest high point of the screwball genre," *Bringing Up Baby*, like all good Depression-era comedies, is sure to make you "forget all your worries and just be happy."

Dinner will be served at 7 pm. No menu is set yet (look for details at the PO in mid-March). Soda, water, beer, and wine are available at costs ranging from \$1 to \$5. Dinner is around \$10.

The film will be shown at 8 pm in the Town Hall. Admission is free to GPFS members and \$5 per person at the door, or \$10 per family for non-members.

Green Again

We're green again, thanks to the contribution of Councilmember Philip Schulp and his wife Jean Horan. They sent in their donation last August along with their Citizens Association dues. We give them our thanks for both items. The dues go a long way towards paying for the *Bugle*, as well as such events as the 4th of July festivities and Spooky Woods in October. If you haven't paid your dues yet, send them along to Box 456, Garrett Park 20896, and the Citizens Association will have some extra money in the coffers for upcoming events.

As for the banner green, we are solvent until the start of September. Anyone else like to join in the "greening" of Garrett Park? If so, please make out a check to the Citizens Association for \$45 and mail it to me at Box 98. Many thanks.

Mary Moyer

David Altar
David.Altar1@gmail.com

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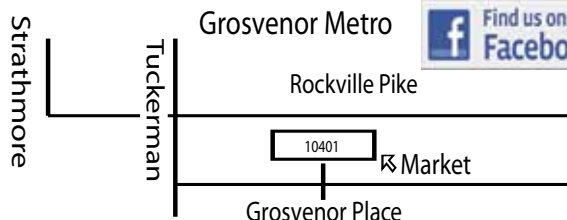
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Letter from the Mayor

The town of Garrett Park has applied to the state of Maryland for a \$561,286 grant under the Federal Safe Routes to School program. This program is designed to encourage more children to walk or bike to school, and is a cooperative program with the local school. It can take a number of forms, and we have decided to ask for funding to extend or replace sidewalks in three parts of town, thereby enhancing the safety of those who now walk in the streets by providing a safer pathway and encouraging others to use the sidewalks. The new sidewalks would look very similar to those recently installed on Kenilworth and Oxford when the elementary school reopened in its new building, and would also include new curbs and gutters.

One part of our proposal is to extend the existing sidewalk on Oxford, which currently ends at Montrose, along the south side of Oxford all the way to Weymouth. All work would be in the existing town right of way, but it would impact some town trees, as well as plantings and structures placed in the right of way by residents. We would make a major effort to minimize that impact.

A second part of the proposal is to replace the deteriorated sidewalk on Clermont from Strathmore to Montrose, and then on Montrose from Clermont to Waverly. Since this is an existing sidewalk, it would have a lesser effect on residents, but part of the reason for the deterioration is tree roots that have damaged the existing sidewalk. We will have to look at ways to protect the new sidewalk from the trees while minimizing damage to the trees. Because the new sidewalk will be wider than the existing one, minimizing the impacts will be a challenge.

The final part of the proposal is to extend the new sidewalk on the west side of Kenilworth one more block, from Waverly to Argyle. This is probably the easiest to implement of the three elements of the request, with the smallest number of impacts.

Because this overall project involves federal funds, it will require many more bureaucratic steps and state clearances than would be the case for a project that we undertook ourselves, and

it will take longer to complete. It is important to note that this is only a proposal and a request for funds. No decisions have been made by either the town or the state to proceed with the project. So far we have only developed a concept design and done preliminary costing in order to apply for the state funds. If we are awarded a grant, we would then do more engineering, conduct public hearings, and work with residents affected to accommodate their desires to the maximum extent feasible. The proposal would come before the Town Council at least twice to allow public comment and determine the next steps—once before accepting the grant, and a second time, after public hearings, to decide whether to go ahead with the project.

In parallel with this proposal we are looking at several more road and gutter projects that the town would pursue on its own. Several years ago we had engineers do an extensive analysis of the town infrastructure. They recommended several immediate actions to stabilize deteriorating roads, followed by repaving to seal the work. The town carried out the first part, stabilizing, but not the second, so the stabilization was not fully protected from the elements. As a result, some of those roads may need additional work. At a minimum they need to be repaved. We have asked our engineers to review the current status of our roads and to propose a priority list of projects to undertake. We will brief the Council on the results and seek authorization to pursue appropriate projects. We will keep residents informed as we develop this set of activities, and we will provide opportunities for comment.

You pay taxes to the town in order to live in Garrett Park. We think you deserve a higher level of services, a more responsive government, and a better quality of infrastructure in return. We are trying to do just that, and welcome your participation in the process.

Peter Benjamin

Visit Garrett Park's Web site:

www.garrettpark-md.gov
